Indo-China border talks

*68. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has expressed its readiness to solve boundary issue with India on the basis of equality and with mutual understanding and concessions;

(b) whether this was expressed by Chinese Chief of Army who had discussions with National Security Advisor, recently in India;

(c) if so, whether both India and China have now agreed to mutually settle this issue;

(d) if so, the latest progress in solving the issue and whether Governments of India and China have agreed to have settlement on this border issue; and

(e) by when the final agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India and China have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through equal and friendly consultations and proceeding from the overall interests of bilateral relations. There have been five meetings so far between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question. These talks resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" between the two sides on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Based on the parameters and principles laid down in the Agreement, the Special Representatives have been tasked to continue their consultations with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be

subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. In addition, the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question, which is engaged in tasks relating to clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control and establishment of confidence building measures in the India-China border areas, continues its discussions.

(e) Both sides have expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and sould therefore be pursued as a strategic objective.

Charges for Money Orders

*69. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the charges for sending Money Orders are exorbitantly high;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to rationalize these charges; and

(c) whether Government would examine the feasibility of finding out cost-effective ways of sending Money Orders or its substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The tariff for Money Orders is Re. 1/- for every sum of Rs. 20/- or fraction thereof w.e.f. 11.06.1990. The tariff of the Money Orders service has not been revised for the last fifteen years.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

Commercial launching by ISRO

*70. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for commercial launching by ISRO;